his breath escaping from him as though low voice of whispering winds and trees,

grown up a man," he continued, speaking and deeper into it, he felt the life and

The HONOR of

Author of THE DANGER TRAIL

Jan stopped, his nails digging deeper,

"Down in your world he would have

more calmly. "I have heard that-since.

It is common down there to be a two-

out of wedlock. I have been told so, and that it is a curse not without hope. But

here it is different. The curse never dies.

would sooner have touched the plague-

he would have been an outcast, despised as he grew older, pointed at and taunted,

called names which are worse than those called to the lowest and meanest dogs.

That is what it means to be born under

sins of the fathers falling upon others? Mon Dieu, it is so-It is so. It came in many small ways and then—the curse—it came suddenly—like this." Jan's voice came in

a hissing whisper now. Thornton could

the south, and he was a great friend to

at first. He knew, afterward, that the

missioner loved his mother's beauty, and

that he tried hard to win it-and failed,

for the woman, until death, would love

only the one to whom she had given her-

self first. Great God, it happened then-

one night when every soul was about the

was no one near the lonely little cabin

with a bit of dripping meat as a gift for

ran in to be struck down by the mis-

sioner. It happened then, and even the

boy knew, and followed the man, shriek-

ing that he had killed his mother." There

was a terrible calmness now in Jan's

away like a flower after that night. She

died and left the boy alone with the curse.

And that boy, m'sieur, was Jan Thoreau.

There was silence now, a dead, pulseless

quiet, broken after a moment by a move.

the table. Jan felt his hands touch his

arm. They groped farther in the dark-

clasped tightly in Thornton's.
"And that—is all?" he questioned.

"No, it is but the beginning," said Jan,

m'sieur, until I am the unhappiest man in

papers which my mother was to give to

me when I had attained manhood. When

grave my father prayed to me to make

what restitution I could. When he came

into the north for good he brought with

him most of his fortune—which was large. m'sieur-and placed it where no one would ever find it—in the stock of the great company. A half of it, he said, should be mine. The other half he asked me to

return to his children and to his real wife,

if she were living. I have done more than that, m'sieur. I have given up all-for none of it is mine. A half will go to the two children whom he deserted. The

"Yes, there is more, m'sleur," said Jan. 'So much more that if I were to tell it

to you it would not be hard for you to

understand why Jan Thoreau is the un-

you that this is but the beginning. I

have not told you of how the curse has followed me and robbed me of all that is

greatest in life-how it has haunted me

destroying my hopes, turning me at last

day the Great God will reward you."

There is more, Jan."

the darkness.

burdened heart.

"And you-I will find you again?"

"Good-bye," said Thornton, huskily

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Music Again.

The woman was his mother.'

"M'sieur, it was true. She wasted

It was Thornton, groping across

until Jan Thoreau's hands were

"The curse has followed me.

Today I have done all that is When my father died he left

For they told the story that

to you, m'sieur, and from his

where the boy and his mother lived. The

big fires at the caribou roast, and there

darkness Jan's eves

The boy was very young

"There was a new

after the child was born.

By James Oliver Curwood

HUB FURNITURE CO.

Closely Daily at 6 P.M.

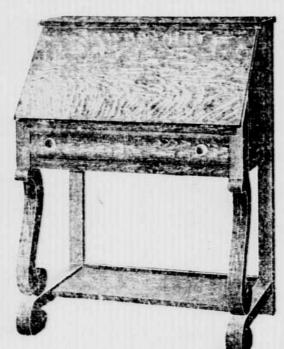
LIBERAL CREDIT.

Saturday at 9 P.M.

After Xmas Furniture Specials.

If there is some one you overlooked, or if there is some piece of Furniture needed to make the home more attractive for the holidays, these EXTRAORDINARY AFTER XMAS FURNITURE BARGAINS SHOULD INTEREST YOU. You can buy now and start paying next year.





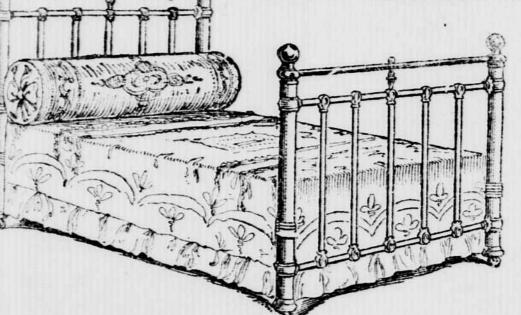
Going at Half Price.

Every Morris Chair and every Ladies' Desk left from the big Xmas stock goes on sale now at onehalf the regular underselling price. You can see the price tags attached, and figure the reduction yourself. Morris Chairs in oak, mahogany and early English, with reversible elour and leather cushions. Ladies' Desks in all

desirable woods.



Bed Outfit at a Bargain!



This Brass Top Rail and Brass Knob Iron Bed, With Mattress and Woven Wire Spring, Complete for

This Exact \$16.50 Quartered Oak Swell Drawer Dresser,

Hand-polished Oak

Dresser, like cut; quartered oak swell drawer; large French plate mirror; dustproof drawer construction; latest style wood pulls.



This Chiffonier,

An exact match or the Dresser. Polished Oak Chiffonier, with French plate mirror, dustproof drawers and new style wood

Southeast Corner Seventh and D Streets N.W.

of 12,500 pounds will be of 14,000 pounds, a gain of 1,500 pounds in this one quar-

tet. The battl-cruiser Queen Mary will have eight guns of the new 13.5-inch type. These five ships will be completed early in 1914.

Anti-Torpedo Armament.

Five Battleships to Be Added

to the British Navy.

WILL CARRY 13.5-INCH GUNS

Anti-Torpedo Armament Will Include Six-Inch Guns, With 100-Pound Shells.

Foreign Correspondence of The Star. LONDON, December 15, 1911. The five battleships of this year's shipbuilding program, which are about to be gun, with twenty-five-pound projectiles, laid down, will be as superior to the which has hitherto been exclusively used. Dreadnought and her sisters as the The ordnance department has now rec-

Dreadnought was to the vessels which

structor. They will not be the largest effect the 100-pound shell of the six-inch tensive power and speed-in fact, in the It is believed that each of the new batembination of all the most valuable tleships will carry sixteen of these six-

It is rather more than a year ago since | iceable weapon, which will not suffer it was announced that the ships then uilding would carry a new type of 13.5-neh gun, throwing a 1,250-pound shell, charge. These guns will not be for use stead of the twelve-inch gun hitherto in battle, but purely for resisting atnounted and discharging an 850-pound tacks by torpedo boat destroyers. shell. There are under construction Simultaneously with this development sleven ships with this very powerful in fighting power, steps have been taken weapon, and these vessels carry with to give the new vessels better protection them an assurance of supremacy in against the explosion of a torpedo or armored ships down to the spring of 1913. mine. This end has been attained by a far At that date the last of them will pass greater subdivision of the hull, so as to nto the British fleet at a moment when localize the effect. It is believed that, a no navy in the world will there be a owing to this increased precaution, these

weive-meh gun. Guns on the Center Line.

These capital ships carry all their cons on the center line-that is, the whole battle armament can be brought to bear From the Cosmopolitan Magazine. on either broadside at will. Eight of these Rabbi Wise, when he visited Boston ened by 104 gams of the 13.5-inch type. to his choice of a stopping place. and at that time there will be no ship

in the past year in the King George V class. The 13.5-inch gun will be mounted, but it will be of a more powerful type than was originally anticipated. Instead of throwing a 1,250-pound shell, it will use a 1,400-pound shell—an increase of 150 pounds, which will be translated in action into destructive power. Consequently, in the new battleships of last year's program—the King George V, Ajax, Centurion and Audacious—the broadside fire instead of being

Russia Proposes to Do Away With Unprofitable State-Aided Learning.

In the five ships of the present year's Foreign Correspondence of The Star. program, the keels of which are about to be placed in position, this new 13.5-

inch gun will be mounted, and the antitorpedo armament will be greatly strengthened. The dreadnought carries sian army is undergoing revision in only twelve-pound guns for dealing with view, chiefly, of the fact that the attacking torpedo craft. Subsequently this existing system dates from the long the gloom their hands met. There was a find that his windows had been broken piece was replaced by a new four-inch service days, and is unsatisfactory change in the other's voice now, some- and over a hundred boots and shoes carommended that in the new battleships a six-inch gun shall be mounted. This action has been taken owing to the increase in The five new battleships—or, to be strictly accurate, four battleships and one battle-cruiser—which are now about to be begun will be the most remarkable. The five new battleships—or, to be the size and speed of destroyers, which are now about to be been preached into me, and this proaching a battleship, and then present to be been preached into me, and this proaching a battleship, and then present to be been preached into me, and this proaching a battleship, and then present to be been preached into me, and this proaching a battleship, and then present to be begun will be the most remarkable. The beautiful proaching a battleship and the size and speed of destroyers, which are now about the size and speed of destroyers, which are size and speed of destroyers, which are now about the size and s ships yet conceived by the naval condisable the boat, but wreck her. This structor. They will not be the largest effect the 100-pound shell of the six-inch armored ships in the world (though gun is calculated to produce. These volunteer" system. Hitherto all youths come and I will bring no curse. If I could ready that we allowed ourselves the larger than any hitherto added to the guns will be carried in armored case-British fleet), but in offensive and de- mates, thus offering to the crews a con- privileges, dependent upon the grade ness, tell her what I have almost been.

ghting qualities-they will be without inch guns, which will be of forty-five calibers instead of fifty calibers, thus giving to the navy a thoroughly servwith a heavier weapon than the men-of-war will be practically unsinkable. If hit by a torpedo the damage must necessarily be considerable, but it will not seal the fate of the ship.

Happened in Boston.

siderable measure of protection.

vessels-the Orion (just completing), the for the first time, was undecided at Thunderer, Conqueror and Monarch (to what hotel to stop. As he wandered up ally a burden, in peace time and in be completed in the spring), the King Summer street from the South station war, it is alleged, are a very great George V. Centurion, Ajax and Auda- he determined to inquire for a good cious—each carry ten of these guns, and hotel. So he accepted a fine-appearing and Queen Mary, which are battle-cruis- man who was coming toward him, coners have eight each. Consequently, early fident that from such a citizen he would in 1913 the British fleet will be strength- be sure to get the very best advice as under any other flag carrying as deadly at?" he inquired of the stranger.

"Just before you reach the at." "What would be a good place to stop pieces of artillery.

There has been a further development the disconcerting senior

TO ESCAPE THE ARMY

continental armies, the Russian army.

uing his studies through various facul- burn in her breast, too. M'sieur-" ties, and when finally called to the military authorities as promising material and is allowed, as a general rule, to slip through the nominal year which in reality works out at about ford House. I will leave word-with her." eight months, as easily as possible, said Jan. Such "one-year volunteers" who abstain from the common failing of the heads of the muzhik recruits have a the little table. And Kazan, whining gards, pretty easy time of it, and at the end softly, seemed to know that in the darkof their term pass a simple examina- ened room had come to pass the thing tion and become "reserve lieutenants." which broke at last his master's over-These men are absolutely unproduc-

The returns show that not one student per thousand takes a learning degree, and barely 10 per cent ever 'finish the university." It has long been obvious that Russian universities are filled not by the attraction of learning and with each mile that he left behind about four hours and Edwards finally esbut by the repulsion of military service. The new recruiting regulations in his breast until he cracked his whip propose to do away with this unprofitin the old way, and shouted to the dogs torn. Edwards collected the bounty on the beast he choked to death.

The recruiting system of the Ruseven under existing conditions, is re- Him before. We send missionaries up to his stock of odd right boots and shoes, markably well placed as regards re- save you, we look upon you as wild and for which the left foot fellows were cruiting. About a million youths every are blind. You have taught me more than missing. Finally, however, he received are blind. You have taught me more than volunteer" system. Hitherto all youths come and I will bring no curse. If I could ready that we allowed ourselves the of education received, even a common and that I still have hope—faith—I could but the boots were all for the left foot school education bringing some amelischool education bringing some ameli- go easier down into that other world." orations, while university education

And from above him the stars It follows, day after day, year after year, | down like a billion tiny fires kindled by And this child—more unfortunate than the that had given him music, peace, since wild things, was born one of them. Do he could remember, and that had taught you understand, m'sieur? If the winds him more of the silent power of God than had whispered the secret nothing would the lips of man could ever tell. From have come near him-the Indian women this time forth Jan Thoreau knew that A thousand times in fanciful play he had given life and form to the star-shadows about him, to the shadows of the tall spruce, the twisted shrub, the rocks and even the mountains. And now it was no longer play. With each hour that passed this night, and with each day and night

o the wild spirit of the wilderness. Once nore he was home. To him the forest

had always been home, filled with the

sympathy and love of it creeping into his

He waited for Thornton to speak, but him, and his fires in the black gloom painted him pictures as they had never painted them before, and the trees and came first-in remorse-to the man. It the rocks and the twisted shrub comgnawed at his soul, ate him alive, and forted him more and more in his lonelidrove him from place to place with the ness, and gave to him the presence of life woman and the child. The purity and love of the woman added to his suffering. going of their shadow forms. Everyand at last he came to know that the shadow of tonight, nedding to him in its silent way, was the same that had nod-ded to him last night—a hundred nights ago; the stars were the same, the winds which the same that had not same the same t know the reason for it. And so the curse north, above the barren lands, and the urse followed there. It gnawed at his whispering to him in the tree tops were life until-he died. That was seven years the same, everything was as it was yeserday-years ago-unchanged, never leav-The oil lamp sputtered and began to ing him, never growing cold in their desmoke, and with a quick movement Jan He had loved the forest-now he turned the wick down until they were left worshiped it. In its vast silence he still possessed Melisse. It whispered to him still of her old love, of their days and "M'sieur, it was then that the curse began to fall upon the woman and the child. Do you not believe that about the rears of happiness, and with his forest he

lived these days over and over again, and when he slept with his forest he dreamed Nearly a month passed before h reached Oxford House and found the sweet-faced girl whom Thornton loved. feel his hot breath as he leaned over the He did as Thornton had asked. and wen ests. He went down the Hayes, getting missioner at the post-a-a Christian from his few supplies at Indian camps, and the woman, and preached God and she spring for up on the Cyte Burning of French built himself a camp and lived for a and saw things, but did not understand time, setting dead-falls for bear. Then brought warning of winter down to him he was filled for a time with a longing to strike north-and west, to go once more back to his barren lands. But, instead, he went south, and so it came to pass that a year after he had left Lac Bain he built himself a cabin deep in the forest of God's river, fifty miles from Oxford House, and trapped once more for the company. He had not forgotten his promise to Thornton, and at Oxford House left word where he could be found if the man from civilization should return In late midwinter Jan returned to Oxford House with his furs. It was on the night of the day that he came into the post that he heard a Frenchman who had come down from the north speak of Lac Bain. None noticed the change in Jan's face as he hung back in the shadows of the company's store. A little later he followed the Frenchman outside and stopped him where there were no others near "M'sieur, you spoke of Lac Bain," he

said, in French. "You have been there?"
"Yes," replied the other, "I was there for a week waiting for the first sledge "It is my old home," said Jan, trying to keep his voice natural. "I have wondered-if there are changes. You saw-Cummins-the factor?" "Yes, he was there."

"And-and Jean de Gravois, the chief "He was away. Mon Dieu, listen to that! The dogs are fighting out there!" "A moment, m'sieur," begged Jan, as the Frenchman made a movement as if to run in the direction of the tumult The factor had a daughter-Melisse-

STOLEN SHOES WERE ALL FOR THE LEFT FOOT other half will go to the child that was unborn. The mother—is—dead." After a time Thornton said:

Berlin Thief Sent Them **Back With Courteous** Note to Owner.

day and night, m'sleur, like a black spirit, Foreign Correspondence of The Star BERLIN, December 15, 1911. into an outcast, without people, without will give up in this girl at Oxford House. M'sieur, am I right? You will not go shop windows boots and shoes for the left back to her. You will go south, and some foot only, keeping the corresponding right boot of each pair in his stockrooms be-He heard Thornton rising in the dark. boot of each pair in his stockrooms be-"Shall I strike a light, m'sieur?" boot of each pair in his stockrooms be-hind the shop. Arriving at his premises "No." said Thornton, close to him. In the other morning, he was disgusted to thing of pride, of triumph, of a glory just ried off. Police efforts to trace the achieved. "Jan," he said, softly, "I thieves proved fruitless and for several thank you for bringing me face to face with a God like yours. I have never met days the shoemaker ruefully contemplated savage and with only half a soul-and we

"Dear Mr. Shoemaker: "You will probably have noticed al-But the boots were all for the left foot "You can," said Jan. "I will take this your district were all left-footed; pre practically reduced military service to word for you, m'sleur, and I will take sumably, in the neighboring locality they a mere form.

It is proposed to do away entirely with the second grade "volunteer" and the heart of M'sieur Thornton. She is considerably extend and improve the one of my people, and she will forgive companions who made up our party did service required from the first grade and love you more for what you have not wish to send your boots back to you higher school education) "volunteer." done. For this, m'sieur, is what the Cree but I am a decent sort of chap, and I At present a university student on god has given to his people as the honor reaching service age can put off his of the great snows. She will still love said: "The man shall have his boots service from time to time by contin- you, and if there is to be hope it will again.' Mr. Shoemaker, I am quite a respectable fellow, but I was short of Something like a sob broke through smald change and that brought me upon ranks he is not looked upon by the Thornton's lips as he moved back through the idea of paying you a visit. But now, Mr. Shoemaker, just you go up to the "And you—I will find you again?" railway station and get your boots back
"They will know where I go from Ox—from the luggage office. I am sending you the ticket along with this. You need not be afraid any longer; we've moved into quite another quarter of the town. Jan listened until his footsteps had died Perhaps I will come and visit you some university student in the ranks to in- away, and for a long time after that he time later on. With best wishes for a troduce subversive doctrines into the sat with his head buried in his arms upon good Christmas business and kind re-On presenting the ticket at the railway

> Sells Pelt of Wolf He Conquered. MERRILL, Wis., December 25 .- Roy Edwards, a resident of this city, was set That night Jan Thoreau passed for the upon by a pack of timber wolves-he says last time back into the shelter of his four or five; there might have been more. forests; and all that night he traveled, The combat is reported to have lasted him something larger and bolder grew caped, after he had choked one of the

station the shoemaker really did get his



1/3 to 1/2 Off Reduction Sale of High-Grade Apparel for Women.

Reductions are now in order at the new store. We decided to inaugurate this sale tomorrow because it is going to prove timely for very many women who had put off buying Suits, Coats, Dresses or Waists until after the Xmas rush. Every garment shown is in the most serviceable and attractive fabrics. In models that are the vogue.

GREAT REDUCTIONS IN SUITS.

Garments of style and character, different and superior to anything shown elsewhere. \$25 and \$29.50 Suits...... \$15.00 \$35 Suits.....\$19.95 \$40 and \$45 Suits......\$25.00 COATS. \$15 Coats..... \$7.75 \$25 Coats..... \$13.75 \$35 Broadcloth and Seal Plush Coats......\$19.95

ELEGANT FUR COATS.

The handsomest stock in the city. Lowest prices. Genuine Russian Penyskin Elegant Baltic Seal Coat; beautiful moire \$35 skins. \$55 value.....

Coat. Regular \$125 \$65

\$25 Dresses, \$10.95 Waists at Big Reductions 200 Waists slightly soiled during the Christmas rush; rich and beautiful crea-A wonderful showing of Dresses, Velvets, Serges, A most remarkable offering.

All other merchandise at 1/3 off marked prices.

Desperate Effort to Detain Prisoner.

foreign Correspondence of The Star PARIS, December 15, 1911. tures in the annals of police strug- was easily captured, as he was injured ing Mrs. O'Mara, wife of a farmer r gles with prisoners has ended in the too severely to stand well on his legs siding in the district between Broadford oner after an exciting scene in a fast Lalouche had been ordered to escort a prisoner named Lalanne to Bordeaux The gendarme had a colleague of his got into the Bordeaux express with their Australian House of Parliament Reprisoner at 7:50 in the morning. At about 4:50 in the afternoon, after passing asked leave to go to the toilet room. The gendarme Lalouche accompanied

Gendarme Killed in still flying along at fuld speed, and instill flying along at fudd speed, and fin- representatives. train, dragging the gendarme after him The gendarme was instantly killed, and the prisoner was severely injured, but he managed to get up and tried to make his escape. The alarm had meanwhile been rung, and the train came to a stop. The line was searched, and the bady of the gendarme was found on the permanent way. The prisoner was also seen as he was trying to move across the field with his clothes in rags and his of the most thrilling adven- hands and face stained with blood. He

IN DEADLOCK OVER DRINK.

where he died during the night

fuses to Abolish Liquor.

MELBOURNE, November 30, 1911. some fifty-five miles an hour, the car- liamentary refreshment rooms.

The two men had a fierce struggle on totalers find that they are robbed of the

CRIME STIRS IRELAND.

Woman Receives Contents of Gun Full in the Face.

DUBLIA, December 15, 1911. He was taken under guard to an ambu-lance station, and thence to the hospital, where ausband has recently been under police The crime appears to have been con

mitted in the most daring manner. Mr. O'Mara and her niece were sitting in th was heard at the door. Mrs. O'Mara pro point blank, and as the result of another shot the niece was seriously injured.

Too many "eye-openers" will close riage shook violently, and the gendarme's After one speech of two hours' length man's eyes. - Chicago News.

Rhymo the Monk

By Gus Mager

He Plays a Little Game of Chess



AND I CAN JUST SIT BACK AND SMILE

BUT I CAN FOIL HIS LITTLE TRICKS





